

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /143 W

----- 031726

R 091437Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0228

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
DIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3392

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

USUN ALSO FOR AMB SCOTT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO
SUBJ: GOP BLOCKS FAR LEFTIST RALLY

REF: A) LISBON 3322; B) LISBON 2388 (NOTAL) C) LISBON 2946 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOP HAS FOLLOWED-UP SUSPENSION OF FAR LEFTIST
NEWSPAPER WITH PHYSICAL BLOCKING OF RALLY CALLED TO PROTEST
EARLIER ACTION. GOP'S ATTITUDE TOWARD FAR LEFT NOW
STOPS JUST SHORT OF OUTRIGHT LEGAL BANNING. END SUMMARY.

1. INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF LUTA POPULAR (REF A), ORGAN
OF MAOIST MRPP, PROVOKED THAT GROUP TO CALL FOR PROTEST
RALLY IN DOWNTOWN LISBON EVENING AUGUST 7. RALLY'S
AIMS WERE TO PROTEST INTERIM DECREE LAW UNDER WHICH
LUTA POPULAR SUSPENDED, TO CALL FOR REVOCATION OF
SUSPENSION ORDER AND TO DEMAND RELEASE OF JAILED LP
EDITOR SALDANHA SANCHES (REF B).

2. AS IN CASE OF LAST MAJOR FAR LEFT PROTEST RALLY
(REF C), ARMED FORCES PRESS SERVICE ISSUED PUBLIC STATE-
MENT IN AFTERNOON, HOURS BEFORE RALLY SCHEDULED TO
TAKE PLACE, WARNING POPULACE NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN
PROCEEDINGS WHICH MIGHT HAVE "UNFORESEEN CONSEQUENCES".
UNLIKE SCENARIO DEVELOPED IN THAT INSTANCE, HOWEVER,
MILITARY TOOK STEPS THIS TIME THAT CLEARLY WENT BEYOND
"OBSTRUCTIONIST" STAGE. USING LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS
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FROM SEVERAL MILITARY SERVICES, AS WELL AS TRUCKS
AND 11 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, MILITARY FORCES PHYSICALLY
OCCUPIED SQUARE WHERE RALLY WAS TO TAKE PLACE AND CLOSED
OFF ALL ACCESS POINTS TO IT. PEOPLE WITHIN MILITARY'S
LINES (SQUARE IS IN HEART OF DOWNTOWN LISBON, WITH
SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE NORMALLY WORKING IN OFFICERS
OR ENJOYING DRINKS AT CAFES AND RESTAURANTS) WERE
RELATIVELY FREE TO MOVE INSIDE CORDON BUT, ONCE PAST

SET LINES, COULD NOT MOVE BACK TOWARD SQUARE. OUTSIDERS
COULD ONLY LOOK ON FROM A DISTANCE.

3. EMBOFF PRESENT AFTER TIME SET FOR RALLY OBSERVED
SEVERAL THOUSAND INTERESTED SPECTATORS (SQUARE VISIBLE
FROM VANTAGE POINTS ON OVERLOOKING HILLS), FEW OF WHOM
COULD BE CONSIDERED FRIENDLY TOWARD PROMOTERS OF RALLY.
ON OTHER HAND, DEROGATORY COMMENTS ABOUT MRPP AND
REMARKS SUPPORTING ARMED FORCES ACTIONS WERE COMMON.
LISBON PRESS ON DAY AFTER (AUGUST 8) REPORTED THAT
SEVERAL "SMALL INCIDENTS" OCCURRED EARLIER IN AFTERNOON,
RESULTING IN DESTRUCTION OF SEVERAL MRPP BANNERS AND
ARREST OF UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF PERSONS.

4. COMMENT: GOP HAS NOT BANNED MRPP OUTRIGHT. HOWEVER,
IT IS APPARENTLY INTENTION OF GOP THAT THIS GROUP NO
LONGER ENJOY RIGHT TO AIR PUBLICLY ITS IDEAS VIA LEGALLY
PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER OR LEGALLY SCHEDULED PUBLIC RALLY.
STOPPING SHORT OF FORCING GROUP INTO CLANDESTINITY,
GOP IS ALLOWING MRPP TO PROPAGANDIZE ITS VIEWS ONLY BY
MEANS OF HANDBILLS, WALL POSTERS, AND INDOOR MEETINGS.
OTHER GROUPS ON FAR LEFT, SO FAR, HAVE TAKEN BACK SEAT
PUBLICITY-WISE TO MRPP. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER
OR NOT GOP'S ANTI-MRPP MOVES WILL BE EXTENDED TO
COVER WHOLE OF FAR LEFT OR WILL BE LIMITED SOLELY
TO ITS MOST NOISY ELEMENT.
POST

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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